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The President's Daily Brief

October 8, 1974

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 25X1

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October 8, 1974

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PORTUGAL

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JAPAN

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ETHIOPIA

The moderate majority of Ethiopia's ruling Armed Forces Coordinating Committee has decided to use force to subdue its military opponents.

Yesterday in Addis Ababa, the committee sent troops to arrest officers and men of a dissident army engineer battalion. A skirmish broke out, and four men were reportedly killed and seven wounded. Addis Ababa radio later announced that members of the battalion and the army aviation unit had been arrested for attempting to "disrupt the progress of the revolution."

The committee's abandonment of debate and negotiation to resolve differences stems from increased tensions that in recent weeks have seriously eroded military unity.

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[redacted] The chance of major fighting hinges on the reaction of the first division, which now is the strongest opponent of the committee moderates. The first division, however, is divided; most of its dissidents are in only one of its four brigades. 25X1

The moderates believe they are now strong enough to make a convincing show of strength. The troops in Addis Ababa who support committee moderates are now believed to outnumber dissidents in the first division.

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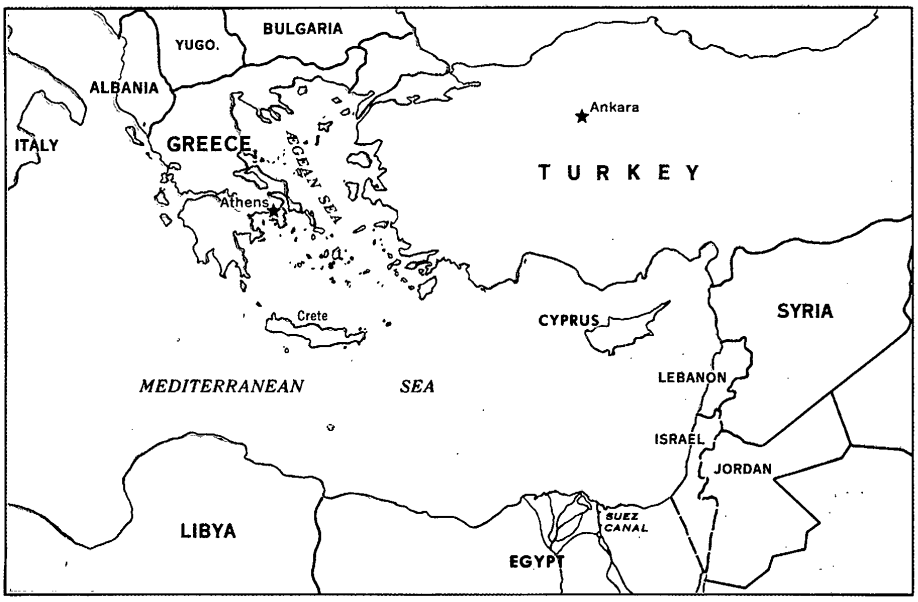

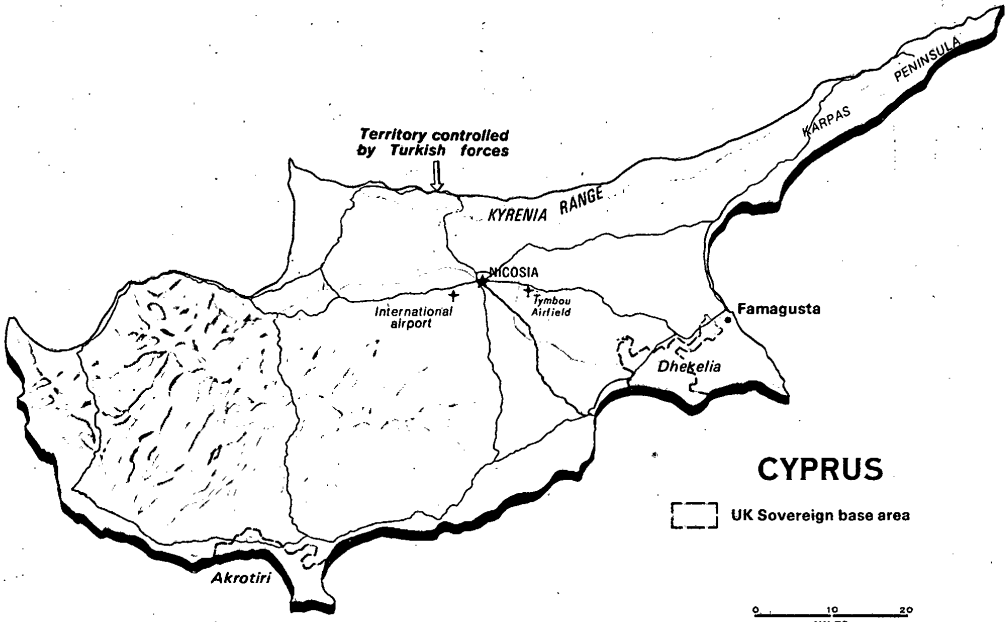

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NOTES

Turkey-Cyprus: Turkey's General Staff has decided to proceed with plans to establish a permanent naval base on Cyprus at the port of Famagusta, according to a Turkish military officer. The Turkish government has not yet decided whether it will permit Greek Cypriots to return to the city--a point that will be covered in future negotiations. The Turkish navy has long desired a permanent base on Cyprus, and the capture of Famagusta reportedly was a priority target in phase two of the Cyprus intervention. In addition to improving the port facilities at Famagusta, Turkish engineers are rebuilding Tymbou airfield, near Nicosia. General Staff plans also include the stationing of troops in the Famagusta area to protect these facilities.

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USSR:

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